

LAMBDA VALLEY

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Story of a Local Centerfold In Depth with Jack Hammer

by BOB SWEENEY

For those of you who aren't familiar with Jack Hammer, he is an Allentownian who appeared in a nude photo spread in *Playguy* magazine in May of 1987. In 1977 he appeared in a black and white nude photo in *Mandate* magazine. The *Mandate* shot was to promote the Second Story, a Philadelphia gay bar, while it was under construction.

Born the eldest of three in Elmer, New Jersey on January 7, 1956, he resides in center city Allentown where he keeps house with his cat, Dessi, and a fish aquarium. He and his lover, Dan, have a commuting relationship, with Dan living in the Pocono area.

Raised by his great grandmother because both parents worked, Jack wanted to be a landscape architect when he was younger, but things changed in high school.

Graduating in a class of 84 students, he was class president and voted most artistic by his peers. This made him decide to dabble at Glassboro State College as an art major. He didn't continue his art education because, "I didn't want to become an art teacher or a starving artist." He says, "Money makes the world go 'round, and I wanted to know how to make it."

He was 18 years old when he first entered a gay bar, the Lark in Atlantic City, and shortly thereafter told his parents he was gay. According to Jack, his mother didn't say anything, and his

father said, "I figured that much." Jack explains, "It is nobody's choice. It is the way it is. I have accepted this, now you have to." His father responded, "Now I have a secret for you. When your mother and I married, she was pregnant with you." That broke the ice. Jack states that his relationship with his family is close, "whatever close means." They talk at least once a week on the telephone and occasionally stay with each other. Another good example of their close relationship is when Jack told his father he was taking the busiest night of the week off from work to spend with his lover, Dan, his father replied, "You can always make up a dollar but never a day."

I recently had the pleasure one Friday afternoon to talk with Jack about his views on love, nudity, pornography, and morality. Here are his replies.

Q. Why did you pose nude?

A. I did the *Mandate* photo because someone asked me to, and it was tasteful. There wasn't any money involved. I did the *Playguy* spread mostly out of ego; it was 10 years after the *Mandate* photo, I was 31 years old, and I wanted to see if I could still cut it. It wasn't money either because for the *Playguy* shoot I was paid \$150.

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INTERVIEW

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Q. How did your family, friends and lover accept your photo spread for Playguy?

A. My family didn't see the *Playguy* spread. It was too sleazy, but they saw the *Mandate* photo and accepted it. Friends aren't bothered by it.

My clientele take it two ways. Either they think of me as loose or jaded or with reproach ("How could you do such a thing?"). Dan, my lover, likes it. He went to a used book store in New York City to buy a copy. His friends tease him about dating a porno star, but he is not ashamed. People that are embarrassed by it — you have to wonder where they are coming from. They down the shoot but pick up a different person every night, sharing intimacy with strangers. Come on!

Q. Would you ever consider doing a video or another photo spread?

A. I have no desire for video. I would do another shoot when I am 41 years old for the same reasons I did the *Playguy* shoot, and this time I would do it for the money.

Q. Do you or did you ever regret posing nude?

A. No. I chose to do it. I did it for myself and not for the money.

Q. What was your photo shoot like?

A. I met with the photographer the night prior to the shoot to get acquainted. The next day we set up and started, by the end of the day I was real relaxed. During the shooting the photographer and I were jerking off — I like the word jerking off. Masturbation is too nice a word. — By the end of the shoot we both ejaculated, never touching each other. After the shoot we went to dinner, and I got to choose which prints got printed.

Q. Jack, would you ever consider legitimate modeling?

A. I am presently doing legitimate modeling in Jim Thorpe for a gay artist. It is very flattering. His work is male sensual, it borders between sensuality and erotica, almost religious.

Q. Do you have any pointers for the up and coming nude model?

A. Yes. Do it for fun, not money. There isn't much money in magazine spreads. If you get into hard-core porn, insist on condoms, etc. Lastly, don't do anything you are ashamed of. Do it by choice, not by decision. These things have a way of surfacing at the oddest times in your life.

Q. Jack, what are your feelings on nudity and pornography?

A. The male body is beautiful. There is nothing wrong or embarrassing about seeing male nude. It dates back to the early Greeks and their worship of the male physique. I like pornography. I find it an alternative to unsafe sex. Porn has changed. Back when I did the *Mandate* photo, it was tasteful and relied on fantasy. Today, it is sleazy, selling sex and strictly hard-ons. When I didn't have a lover, I was very much into watching pornography.

Q. Jack, what are your attitudes toward sex and AIDS?

A. For me, sex is no longer a fantasy but an expression of intimacy. I don't indulge in un-safe sex any more. Coming out in the '70's, I am not worried about my sexual practices now but what I did back then. It was nothing for me to spend hours in a bath house scoring with as many men as I could. I have known people who have died of AIDS, but it was when a person I knew intimately died from the disease that it took its toll emotionally and really brought the AIDS crisis home. I have taken the HIV antibody test twice, thankfully to negative results.

Q. Jack, if you could change anything, whether it be personal or otherwise, what would it be?

A. It would be never to have AIDS come on the scene. The disease has set gays back politically in addition to the many lives AIDS has claimed.

Q. Jack, what are your feelings on homosexuality?

A. I think homosexuals are more sensitive, more creative and more athletic. I am happy being gay. If I had a choice between gay or straight, I would choose gay because if I wasn't gay, I would be a

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-TIME-

HOT

SOUNDS

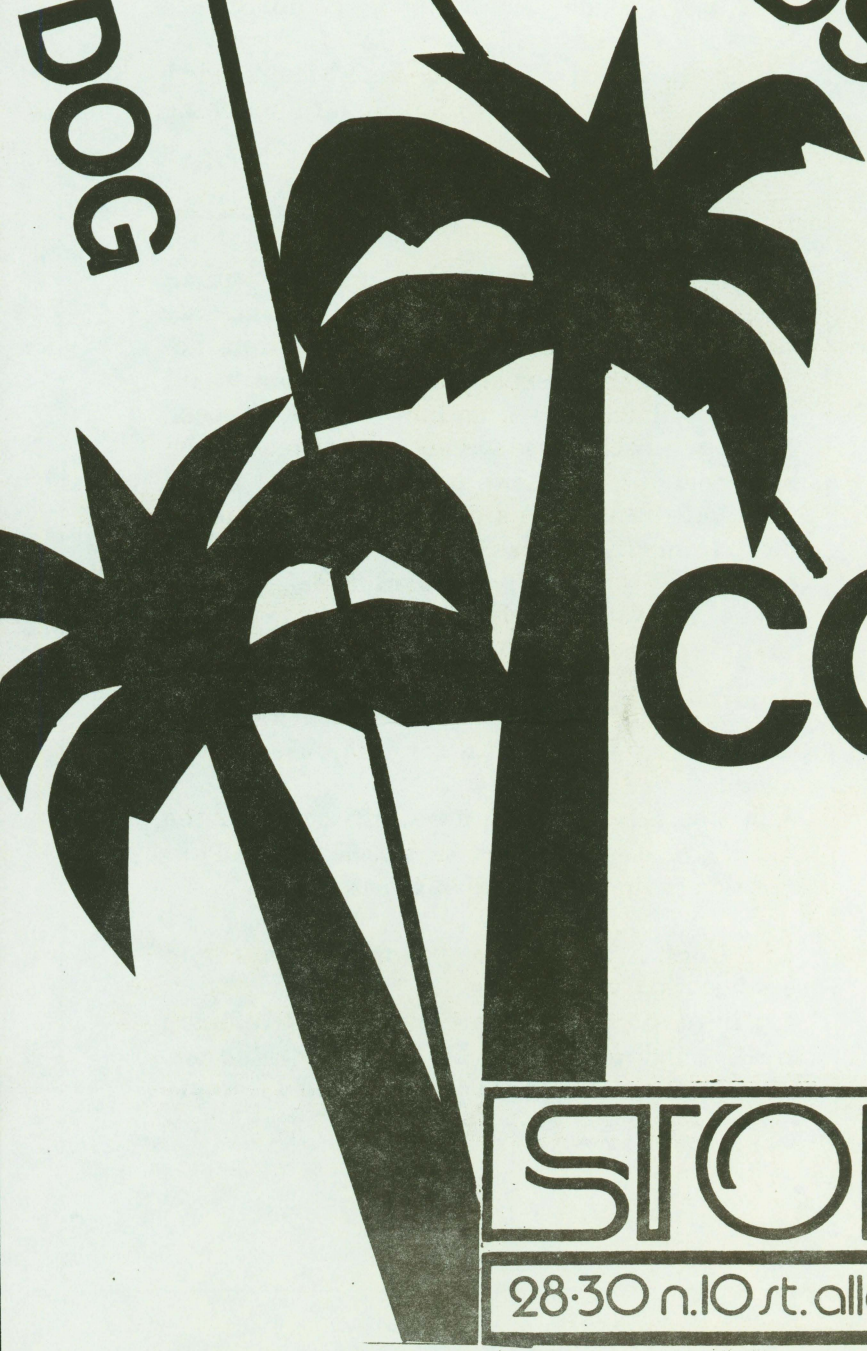
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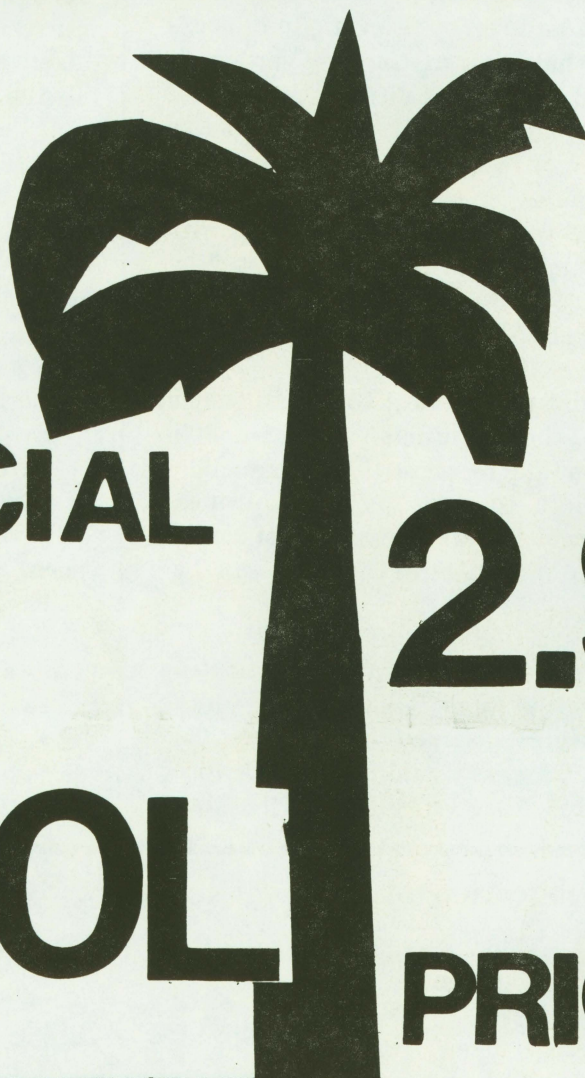
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totally different person, and I am happy being the person I am.

Q. What is Jack Hammer really like?

A. I consider myself an average 32 year old homosexual male. I wake up and do all the everyday things. I go to work, come home, watch television, or practice on my piano or cello. On my nights off I usually stay home. My work time at night is my party time. I like my job a lot. That is probably why I have been doing it for so long.

Q. What does Jack Hammer do for relaxation?

A. When I am at home, I occasionally smoke a joint. I take piano and cello lessons, so I practice a lot, which relaxes me. I also enjoy listening to music. I love working in what I call my fantasy garden. It is like playing God. I can plant different things for different effects. In essence, I can control and create. I play a lot of racquetball and work out on nautilus. My house is presently going under renovations. It is very exciting coming up with different color schemes and different ideas.

Q. Jack, what could you see yourself doing in the future years?

A. Well, I know what I don't want to do and that is becoming a professional musician or artist. It is too personal. I would be prostituting myself. I think I would like to own my own business, perhaps a gay corner bar, with my lover, of course, and spend the winter months in the Carribean.

Q. Jack, you just said that becoming a musician or artist would be prostituting yourself. Don't you feel your nude modeling prostitutes yourself?

A. No. First of all, I wasn't paid that much to be called a prostitute. What I meant was I feel that

being a musician or artist is such a personal thing for me. I do it for *my* enjoyment, not for anyone else. Just like the shoot. I did it for me, *my* ego. If others derive enjoyment so much the better, but when I start out either playing or drawing or modeling, I am not thinking of doing it for anyone besides me.

Q. Jack, are there any philosophies you would like to leave us with today??

A. The older I get the more I realize how short life is, and I don't like to get bogged down in politics. This is not a cop-out, but life is too short. I am very hedonistic in nature. Some might call me a pleasure beast. I do keep abreast of current events, though. I am happy about the progress with nuclear disarmament. It makes me feel safer about Russia. The Middle East scares me because of all the problems there. My favorite philosophy is make as much money as you can then get the f--- out of there!

Well, readers, there you have it, the first public interview with Mr. Jack Hammer. It was a pleasure meeting with and talking to him. For those fans who still want more, he gave me some extra tidbits concerning his favorites:

Favorite thing: Making it with my boyfriend

Favorite color: Green

Favorite TV show: The national news

Favorite book: *Autobiography of a flea* (old porn)

Favorite movie: *White Christmas*

Favorite actor: Mel Gibson. We are both the same age and born the same day and year

Favorite actress: Meryl Streep

Favorite type of music: At home it is classical, and at work it is female vocalists.

☐

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PGN

By Bert Wylene

If you weren't out and about last Wednesday night, you should have been. Just up the river in New Hope, there was a gala opening of the newly renovated Cartwheel Restaurant and Bar (formerly the Barr formerly the Cartwheel).

With the feeling of a Holly opening, the Cartwheel was plete with limos, searchlight bartenders and a line of folks door, eagerly awaiting the chance get in the doors and experience the

reunion and examine the old haunt. For a novice to the bar scene in the surrounding areas, I for one was really impressed. The dining room was tastefully appointed, the piano bar great and if you are wild and want a great light show, the disco area is a must. The owners, Jack and Bill, also told of plans to add on another wing, which is probably in progress as you read this.

And to top it all off, the event was a fundraiser for the Hyacinth Foundation of New Jersey, a community AIDS organization.

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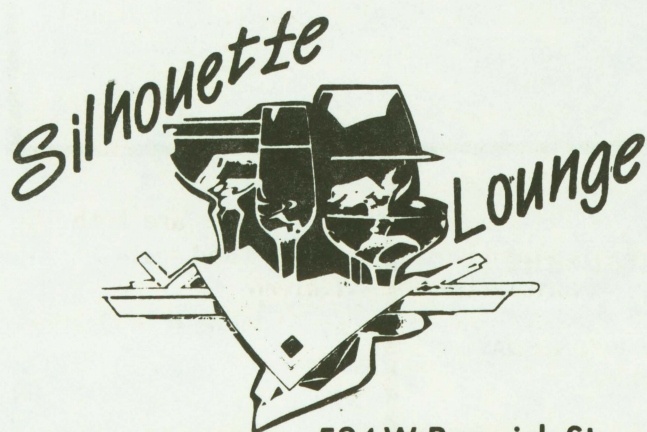


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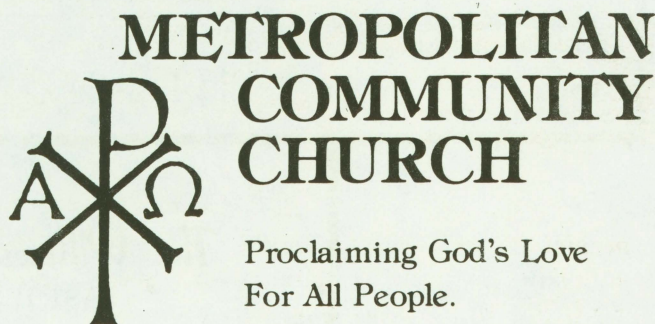
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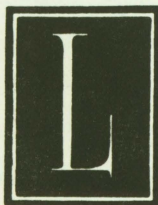
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